

Exhibit 6: Email from Department of Fish and Game Biologist

Hi Richard

Attached is the email from Bill Cox, biologist, DFG regarding the proposed GRRCD projects in the Estero Americano.

Please let me know if you need any further information.
Thanks - lisa

Lisa Hulette
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-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Cox [mailto:bc Cox@dfg.ca.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2004 3:03 PM
To: goldrdge@sonic.net
Subject: Re: Estero Americano Projects

Lisa;

I have visited most of the ranches on your projects list to review your proposed projects in the Estero Americano watershed, and have reviewed site photographs and project descriptions for the sites I did not visit.

The project sites include: Lepori - 680 Gericke Road (Ranch 1), Erickson- 30501 State Highway 1 (Ranch 2), Harston - Freestone Ranch Road (Ranch 4), Albini - 2114 Middle Road, Valley Ford (Ranch 8), Conlon - 1246 Estero Road (Ranch 10), Williams - 14280 Valley Ford Road (Ranch 11), and Briggs - 12528 Petaluma Valley Ford Road (Ranch 13). It is my determination that all of these projects will be beneficial to the environment by substantially reducing the amount of fine sediment eroding into the waters of the State, reducing nutrient input to the waters of the State by restricting livestock access to the streamside areas, and restoring native riparian vegetation. The work on Ranch 13 will also contribute to the removal of legacy tires which may provide mosquito breeding habitat.

In my review of these projects I considered potential impacts which they could have on the environment as well as the potential benefits. The project sites are within the general range of the steelhead trout and coho salmon which are both listed as Threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act, coho are now listed as Endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. None of the drainages on which these projects are located support fish populations except for Ebabias Creek (Ranch 4). The work near Ebabias Creek on Ranch 4 will have no adverse impact on any habitat for steelhead trout or coho salmon. Within the general area of some of these projects there could be populations of California red-legged frogs, which are listed in some areas as Threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act, but not in this area.

It is my determination that none of the projects currently proposed by the Gold Ridge RCD for the Estero Americano watershed has the potential to cause an adverse impact on the waters of the State or on any sensitive biotic resources.

Bill Cox
District Fishery Biologist
Sonoma / Marin
California Department of Fish and Game